

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 SSO-00 NSCE-00 AID-01

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O 240950Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4645

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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FROM CODEL PERCY TO THE SECRETARY

DEPT PASS TO NADINE JACOBSEN, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO SENATOR
PERCY

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (PERCY, CHARLES H.)

SUBJECT: NEGATIVE SAG REACTION TO US POSTURE ON COMMUNIST
INTERVENTION IN AFRICA

1. CODEL REPORTS AS FOLLOWS:

2. DURING FOUR DAYS OF MEETINGS IN SOUTH AND SOUTHWEST AFRICA, EVERY
SAG OFFICIAL I SPOKE WITH, FROM VORSTER ON DOWN, STATED
THAT USG WARNINGS TO COMMUNIST POWERS NOT TO INTERVENE IN RHODESIA
ARE ACTUALLY COUNTER PRODUCTIVE. 1ST: NO ONE BELIEVES UNITED
STATES WOULD BACK THESE WARNINGS WITH MILITARY FORCE. (SEE
SEPTEL REPORTING MY APRIL 23 MEETING WITH VORSTER.

2ND. THOSE WHO HOPE FOR PEACEFUL NEGOTIATED SOLUTION FEEL
IT HOLDS FALSE HOPE OUT TO IAN SMITH WE MAY BAIL HIM OUT
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MILITARILY IF COMMUNIST ACCEPT OUR DARE.

I WAS PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY FACT THAT EVEN HARD LINER SAG COMMISSIONER GENERAL, DE WET, IN OVAMBOLAND (IN NORTHERN NAMIBIA NEAR ANGOLA BORDER) AFFIRMED THIS VIEW. (AS REPORTED SEPTTEL, NYERERE, KAUNDA, AND MACHEL ALSO EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN TO ME THAT USG WARNINGS OF RETALIATION FOR CUBAN AND SOVIET INTERVENTION SOUTHERN AFRICA ARE NOT RELIEVED AND ARE THEREFORE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.)

3. I AM CONVINCED THAT ONLY WAY FOR USG TO BLOCK COMMUNIST PENETRATION THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN AFRICA IS BY DEMONSTRATING THAT WE ARE MORE EFFECTIVE SUPPORTERS OF MAJORITY RULE THAN THE COMMUNISTS. BEST WAY TO FACILITATE SPREAD OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IS BY BLUFF THAT RINGS FALSE THROUGHOUT AFRICA AN WHICH APPEARS TO THEM TO BE ONLY FOR DOMESTIC US CONSUMPTION.

4. TWO COMMON PRESS QUESTIONS I HAVE ENCOUNTERED IN SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA HAVE BEEN: (A) IS MY VISIT AIMED AT PREPARING GROUND FOR SECSTATE VISIT, AND (B) DO I ASSOCIATE MYSELF WITH VIEW THAT SECSTATES OMISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA IS QUOTE STUPID UNQUOTE. (THIS VIEW PUBLICIZED BY SOUTH AFRICA FOUNDATION PRESIDENT MARAIS.) MY REPLY TO BOTH QUESTIONS HAS BEEN STRONG DENIAL. I HAVE SAID I HOPE TO HELP COORDINATE SENATE POSITION WITH THAT OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH WHEN SECSTATE AND I RETURN.

(5) BECAUSE I WILL BE ASKED TO COMMENT ON SECSTATES LUSAKA SPEECH, WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING COPY IN WASHINGTON SOONEST. JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JOHANN00575
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760156-0331
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760426/aaaaavts.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEGATIVE SAG REACTION TO US POSTURE ON COMMUNIST INTERVENTION IN AFRICA
TAGS: OREP, (PERCY, CHARLES H)
To: STATE NAIROBI
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006